



City of Centralia, Illinois Press Release

August 16, 2022
Contact: W. Kory Smith
City Manager
Phone: (618) 533-7623
E-mail: wsmith@cityofcentralia.org

Christopher Locke Appointment to Police Chief

City Manager W. Kory Smith has announced that a conditional appointment has been offered to Christopher Locke to serve as Centralia's Police Chief. Chief Locke will be sworn in as the Police Chief at a later date following Council approval of the appointment. His effective date is set to be September 12th.

Mr. Locke has served as a Special Agent with the United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations. His education includes a Bachelor's Degree with an emphasis in Criminal Justice and Sociology. He was also a graduate of Southern Police Institute Administrative Officer's and Chief Executive Leadership courses.

Prior to his appointment as Police Chief for the City of Centralia, Chief Locke has served the Fairview Heights Police Department for over 28 years with 16 years as a member of the Command Staff and 4 years as Chief of Police. His experience includes the role as Deputy Commander of the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis and also the Emergency Services Disaster Agency Coordinator for the City of Fairview Heights.

Mr. Locke has many years of experience with multi-million-dollar budgets, negotiating contracts, human resources, and has implemented recruitment programs for his department. He also has executed and has been successful with community orientated policing initiatives and is committed to strong police/community relations. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Illinois Associations of Chiefs of Police, Southern Illinois Police Chiefs Association, and the American Legion.

City Manager Smith stated that Chief Locke brings a lot of integrity and experience to an already great department. Finding the best possible leader was of the utmost importance for Centralia's future. This candidate is not only highly qualified but brings certain intangibles to lead the Centralia Police Department well into the future.

###